

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2762
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
HUGE WASTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of huge wastages of agricultural produce in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such wastages; and
- (c) the steps taken to avoid such wastage?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A High Level Expert Committee on Cold Storage and Storage constituted by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has estimated that 25 to 30% of fruits and vegetables and 8 to 10% of food grains are wasted annually due to lack of post harvest technology and non-existence of integrated transport, storage and marketing facilities.

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been developing new techniques/systems to minimize the wastage in agricultural produce in the country through the Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology, Ludhiana and the All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology. The All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology has 33 cooperating centers located throughout the country to develop regionally differentiated post harvest technology packages for crops, livestock products and fisheries produce in terms of reducing post harvest losses, adding value to the main produce and byproducts. The Department is also implementing schemes for the Construction/Modernization of Cold Storage and Rural Godowns in rural areas of the country. The aim of the Scheme is to provide scientific storage facility to meet the requirement of farmers for storing farm produce. This would prevent wastage of agriculture produce. Under this scheme, so far cold storage capacity of 38 lakh MT and Rural storage of 127 lakh MT has been sanctioned.